

Hollow Earth Radio
2018A E. Union St
Seattle, WA
98122

January 7, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Federal Communications Commission,

It has come to our attention the FCC is currently deciding the fate of LPFM channel availability. Hollow Earth Radio, a 501(c)(3) internet community radio station, has been operating online with a volunteer staff for four years. Our primary mission and focus is to provide a forum for underrepresented sounds and perspectives. We have become an established organization in Seattle, receiving such acclaim from local media like Seattle Weekly, whose readership awarded us Best Independent Radio. In an effort to further our scope in mission and community, we would love the opportunity to expand beyond web-based streaming and on to terrestrial airwaves.

We have been looking to license an LPFM radio station for several years in order to broadcast local artists and eclectic music that currently does not receive airplay in Seattle. Additionally, we would like to license an LPFM to provide Seattle residents access to the local airwaves. Public access to local media has been dwindling in Seattle in the last few years. The local college station was turned into a professionalized "new music" public radio station. The local community station, owned by a community college, has been slowly reducing local programmers, turning into a public radio outlet. Just recently the public access television outlet, SCAN-TV, announced that it's funding was cut and will cease to exist by the end of the year.

With community media on the decline in Seattle, it was to our dismay to read Common Frequency's recent comment to the FCC forecasting LPFM availability in Seattle.

According to Common Frequency's study, if the FCC moves forward with the ten application cap, **eight more translators** may be licensed in the city of Seattle. Afterwards, there could be **one usable channel** for LPFM, and **one marginal use channel**.

We counted **twenty one translators already licensed in the Seattle-Tacoma area** (see attached at end of letter). One broadcaster owns **seven** area translators. We counted **one LPFM** already licensed (not in Seattle or Tacoma,

but in the small town of Fall City, WA) in the Seattle metro. **That LPFM is currently encroached upon by a commercial broadcaster.**

We previously asked a Seattle-area translator owner whether they would sell their translator. They asked \$200,000 for a translator that did not even serve Seattle directly. They are currently leasing the translator to another broadcaster. It is unfortunate that some translator owners applied in 2003 as a means of making a large amount of money off the opportunity. This leaves only the wealthiest of broadcasters that can then afford to utilize these channels.

We believe that it is in the public interest for the FCC to open an LPFM filing opportunity before granting translators to use of the last remaining channels in Seattle. There is already an ample amount of translators licensed in Seattle, mainly rebroadcasting redundant area programming, or religious network programming from other states.

Yours truly,

Garrett Kelly
Technical Director
Hollow Earth Radio

CC: Rosemary Harold, Joshua Cinelli, Dave Grimaldi, Krista Witanowski, Sherrese Smith

Twenty One Seattle-Tacoma area translators: K201EN Everett WA, K201AB West Seattle, K201EX Greenwater, K205DF Enumclaw, K206CJ Issaquah, K206DL Granite Falls/Everet, K206DM Bremerton, K207AP Sumner & Lake Tapps, K207AZ Gig Harbor, K220HD Fall City, K221FJ Tacoma, K225AX White Center, K229BL Gig Harbor, K229BP Orting, K233BU White Center, K258BJ Everett, K277AE Seattle, K281AS Tacoma, K285FJ Brinnon, K289AK Orting, K293AY Enumclaw